

Message Text

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PASS TREASURY FOR BENNETT

TAGS: EGEN, OECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF DATES FOR OECD MINISTER-
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1. DURING FEB 11 COUNCIL MEETING, SEC GEN VAN LENNEP PROPOSED THAT DATES FOR OECD MINISTERIAL BE TENTATIVELY SET FOR JUNE 17-18. NOTING THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS TIMING WITH INTERIM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TURNER, VAN LENNEP SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO THIS SCHEDULE, G-10 WOULD MEET JUNE 16, INTERIM COMMITTEE WOULD MEET JUNE 19-20, AND IMF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WOULD MEET JUNE 21. NO STRONG OBJECTIONS WERE VOICED AGAINST THESE DATES BUT NO DECISION WAS MADE.

2. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSION, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TOWE MADE WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "EXTREMELY PERSONAL PROPOSAL" THAT INSTEAD OF HOLDING MINISTERIAL IN JUNE, MINISTERIAL MEETING BE CALLED IN MARCH TO LAUNCH SOLIDARITY FUND.

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HE THOUGHT LAUNCHING SOLIDARITY FUND AT MINISTERIAL

MEETING WOULD ADD "POLITICAL CREDIBILITY" TO FUND AND THAT MEETING MIGHT ALSO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION. MARCH MINISTERIAL MEETING MIGHT IN ADDITION DISCUSS RENEWAL OF TRADE PLEDGE.

3. UK AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS PERSONALLY SAW SOME MERIT IN IDEA OF MINISTERIAL MEETING TO LAUNCH SOLIDARITY FUND, ALTHOUGH FRENCH REFERRED TO TIMING AND POSSIBLE POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN RELATION TO PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE (WHICH TOWE ACKNOWLEDGED) AND THOUGHT THAT SUCH A MEETING SHOULD BE FOCUSED SOLELY ON SOLIDARITY FUND. ONLY AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR, ALSO ON PERSONAL BASIS, SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF FORGOING JUNE MINISTERIAL IN FAVOR

4. VAN LENNEP NOTED PROBLEMS OF MINISTERIAL JURISDICTION WHICH WOULD ARISE FROM DISCUSSION OF ISSUES OTHER THAN FINANCIAL IN MINISTERIAL MEETING TO LAUNCH SOLIDARITY FUND, WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY BE ATTENDED PRIMARILY BY FINANCE MINISTERS. HE PROPOSED THAT COUNCIL CONTINUE PLANNING FOR ANNUAL MINISTERIAL TO BE HELD IN JUNE, WHILE KEEPING IN MIND POSSIBLE DESIRABILITY OF LAUNCHING SOLIDARITY FUND BY MEETING OF FINANCE MINISTERS. IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM WE WILL REPORT VAN LENNEP'S SUBSEQUENT THINKING ON THIS MATTER AND THE POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR TIMING OF OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING.

5. NEXT DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT WILL TAKE PLACE AT HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING ON FEBRUARY 14.
TURNER

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